



October 10, 2005

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION for STATE OF WASHINGTON WATER QUALITY
CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 401 OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT and
COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CONSISTENCY**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the following application has been received for a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, pursuant to the requirements of WAC 173-225. For projects in the 15 coastal counties, this application will also be reviewed for coastal zone consistency in accordance with Section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

This notice is only intended to inform the public of proposed project, and ask for comments by local, state and federal agencies and the public.

EVALUATION: The decision to issue, deny or condition the water quality certification (WQC) or concur with the applicant's Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency statement, will be based on the following: for WQC, it is necessary for the proposed project to comply with the applicable provisions of the federal Clean Water Act and appropriate State aquatic protection requirements. For a project to be declared consistent under the CZMA program, it must be in compliance with State and Federal Clean Water and Air Acts, the Shoreline Management Act, the State Environmental Policy Act, and other applicable federal and state regulations.

REQUESTORS: Mr. Greg Fisher
USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Suite E
Olympia, WA 98512-5623

Mark Petrie
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
1101 Tech Center Drive, Suite 115
Vancouver, WA 98683

AGENCY OR CONTACT: Greg Fisher	Mark Petrie
USDA-NRCS	Ducks Unlimited
(360) 704-7758	(360) 885-2011

CORPS AUTHORIZATION #: 200500858

PROJECT: Vetter Property Wetland Restoration

PROJECT PURPOSE: Two conservation efforts are proposed on a 144-acre property enrolled

into the USDA Wetland Reserve Program. The first will establish a wood riparian buffer along a 58-acre portion of the easement area bordering the Chehalis River and the second will restore wetland functions on 7.4 acres on the northeastern portion of the 144-acre easement area.

LOCATION: Approximately one mile east of the town of Montesano in Grays Harbor County, WA. Sections 8 & 9, Township 17 North, Range 7 West.

RECEIVING WATER: Chehalis River

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: Riparian restoration (tree planting) will occur along the 58-acre portion of the easement that borders the Chehalis River. Excavation will occur to an elevation of 9.0 feet on 7.4 acres of the 40 acre northeastern part of the easement parcel to increase the depth and duration of flooding across this portion of the property. The project area would rely on surface runoff and groundwater for filling as well as periodic over bank flooding of the Chehalis River. Construction work will be accomplished using excavators and bulldozers.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: Approximately 26,111 cubic yards of earthen material will be excavated within the project boundary to achieve a surface elevation of 9.0 feet across 7.4 acres. Approximately 6.1 acres of the 7.4 acres are classified as Prior Converted wetland, with the remaining 1.3 acres being classified as non-wetland. All fill material removed from the 7.4 acre area will be deposited on non-wetland area of the property. The proposed project would retain water within the project boundaries that otherwise would be drained from the area.

The application and related documents are available for inspections and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays at the aforementioned office of Ecology. Further information may be obtained by calling Leslie Kozaria, Public Disclosure Coordinator, at (360) 407-6365.

Evaluation Criteria: The decision to issue, deny or condition the water quality certification (WQC) will be based on the project's compliance with the applicable provisions of the federal Clean Water Act and all other appropriate State aquatic protection requirements

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Ecology is soliciting comments from the public, State, and local agencies and officials, and other interested parties in order to evaluate the impacts of the activity. Any comments received will be considered to determine whether to approve, condition, or deny a certification for the proposed work. **Comments should be sent to:**

Lori Ochoa
Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia WA 98504-4775
loch461@ecy.wa.gov

The comment period will last 21 days, from October 11, 2005 to October 25, 2005.

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